SELECTIONS

FROM THE

Records

OF THE

PUNJAB GOVERNMENT.

VOL. V.

No. 1.—EXPEDITION AGAINST THE KABYL KHAIL WUZEEREES.

COPY of a letter from Commissioner and Superintendent Peshawur division, to Military Secretary to Government Punjab, No. 6, dated 26th January, 1860.

" In my letter No. 188 of 13th ultimo, I reported the refusal of the Kabyl Khail Wuzeerees to render any satisfaction for the murder of Captain Mecham, or to give up the men who had been implicated in that outrage, and the consequent necessity for exacting the retribution, which was contemplated by Government in event of such refusal, in the instructions conveyed by your letter No. 8028 of the 1st December.

2.—Anticipating this result, orders had previously been issued for the march of the troops required from Huzara, Eusufzye, and Dehra Ismael Khan, for, to us, every day was of importance. The winter rains might be expected to set in early in January, after which, mili-

tary operations beyond the Koorum would be almost impracticable. Several chiefs, whose character, position, and local knowledge gave to their opinion much weight, strenuously opposed the movement at this season, urging the extreme inclemency of the weather in those regions, the want of forage and firewood, and the evils which would arise out of an expedition unattended with marked success. Whilst those objections did not appear to General Chamberlain and myself, to outweigh the advantages of a vigorous blow at the time, it was evident that whatever work was to be done must be accomplished before the middle of January.

3.—The force detailed in the margin* was therefore assembled at Kohat on the 13th December, and commenced its march on the following day, under the personal command of the Brigadier General. It was joined at Thull by the 6th Punjab Infantry, increasing the strength to 3,900 men; and by the Horse and Foot Levies †marginally noted. It is the object of this despatch to lay before the Government a connected narrative of its subsequent proceedings.

	Men.	Guns.
* Detachment sappers and miners, ...	16	0
Detachment No. 1 Punjab Light Field Battery, ...	46	2
Ditto No. 2, do. do. ...	81	4
Ditto Peshawur Mountain Train, ...	85	4
Huzara do. do., ...	59	3
Detachment Guide Cavalry,	103	
2nd Punjab Cavalry, ...	328	
Detachment Guide Infantry,	323	
4th Sikh Infantry, ...	639	
1st Punjab Infantry, ...	517	
3rd ditto ditto, ...	502	
4th ditto ditto, ...	528	
Detachment 24th do. do. (Pioneers), ...	97	
Total, ...	3,324	13

† LEVIES AND POLICE.

	Horse.	Foot.
Khuttuks, ...	131	549
Bungush, ...	10	572
Police, ...	75	0
Total, ...	216	1121

4.—But I would first desire to take the opportunity of alluding to the satisfactory change which has, during the few past years, taken place in the social condition of upper Meranzye, through which we proceeded on our way to the Koorum. This valley, though an integral portion of the Kohat district, was not brought, even nominally, under British rule, till the close of 1851.

5.—At that time few tracts could have presented such a scene of lawless confusion. For many years it had been subject to the robber sway of Dooranee Sirdars, who, on the pretext of collecting revenue, paid it periodical visits, every three or four years, with an army of plunderers. The interval was no season of rest, for Meeranzye was exposed to the constant forays of the Zymoosht, the Wuzeerees, and the Toorees; whilst their internal feuds not only prevented their combining for purposes of self-defence or retaliation, but led them to assist those tribes in their acts of depredation on their own clansmen.

6.—Notwithstanding the eagerness of the Meeranzye villages to receive British protection, when the Affghan Government contemplated claiming the valley, it soon became apparent that a rule which would enforce order, and under which a rival could not be slain with impunity, was irksome to the majority. Revenue was withheld, all authority was defied, and in 1855, Colonel Edwardes reported that "for three years they had maintained a state of intolerable anarchy, not only paying no tribute in return for their protection, but disturbing the Kohat district with their feuds, molesting it with petty raids,

and offering a secure asylum to every refugee from justice."

7.—Gradually, too, the valley was slipping from the grasp of its possessors. Already the Zymoosht had become masters of a part of it, and settled at the large village of Torawurree; whilst the Wuzeerees, by a slow but systematic course of encroachment, were preparing for a similar step. Three-fourths of the land belonging to Thull was left uncultivated, from fear of that powerful tribe, who would doubtless ere long have appropriated the waste. It will be seen that some of the Wuzeeree clans annually migrate into Meeranzye for the pasturage of their flocks and herds, and in such visitations they plundered and killed without hindrance.

8.—Although the valley possesses a remarkably fertile soil and abundant means of irrigation, it was only in the immediate vicinity of the villages that cultivation could be carried on, and even there the matchlock was as necessary as the plough.

9.—The expedition of 1855 did much to ameliorate this state of affairs, and the people were beginning unwillingly to perceive that they must obey. Still, however, in all the villages were two factions, one on the side of order and Government, the other sighing for "the good old days" of licence and excitement. Colonel Edwardes graphically describes the working of these factions, in reporting the tragic murder of a fine young chief of Nuryab, in September 1856, who was slain by his rivals,

because he had "committed the two great crimes of arresting criminals, and collecting revenue."

10.—The second expedition into Meeranzye, at the close of that year, completed the good work, and one who had known the valley in past years, would scarcely recognize it in its altered state. There are still, of course, as amongst all Pathans, feuds and factions, but the former rarely lead to bloodshed, and the latter are not based upon men's favor, or hostility to a Government which all have been taught either to fear or to respect.

11.—Protected from foreign enemies, the whole country has been brought under cultivation, and at certain seasons it would have been impossible, in many places, to have encamped the force without injuring the crops. The migratory herdsmen are not only restrained from trespassing, but pay a tax for the use of the pasture lands, and under threat of expulsion are as amenable as the resident tribes. And these are the men who, in all their Wuzeeree pride, boasted in 1856, that "they had seen kings coming and kings going, but had never seen the king who had taken revenue from them." Riding with General Chamberlain over the lands of a small hamlet, we counted fifty ploughs at work, where formerly there had been none; and even in the remotest corners of the valley, I saw no armed men on the roads, or in the fields. Several abandoned villages have been re-established, and are now thriving settlements, whilst towers and walls, formerly so indispensable, are now, in many places, suffered to crumble away.

12.—Entering their villages I was met by no sullen band of men, paying their revenue in order to save their homes, but by a civil troop of grey-beards, proffering hospitality, and by crowds of merry children. The cases which came before Captain Henderson and myself were no longer of raids, of plundered harvests, and whole families murdered, but of inequality of assessment, of assistance required to dig water-courses or construct dams, or the request of some youth clamorous for service.

13.—I have been thus particular in dwelling upon these details, because I rejoice to report the success which has attended the wise policy inaugurated by Colonel Edwardes in 1855, and carried out with judgment and energy by Captain Henderson, whose labors have been attended with such happy results among this rude people. I do not wish it to be believed that their nature has changed, or that, if left to themselves, they would not return to their former habits and predilections; but their passions are restrained, their children are not nurtured in scenes of blood, and we may surely hope that the first and great step has been taken towards their civilization. Nor could any more forcible illustration be adduced of the policy of such expeditions as those to which I have alluded, than that of the history of Meeranzye.

14.—I now return to the movements of the Koorum field force, which arrived at Thull, our extreme border village, on the 19th December, and crossed the river on the following afternoon. At this saason the fords are shallow, from 2 to 3 feet in the deepest parts, but the stream is rapid, flowing in many channels over boulders.

In the spring it is forded with much difficulty and danger.

15.—We were now in the territories of the Ameer of Cabul, to whom I had addressed a letter, stating the necessity which had arisen for taking the troops through the lands of Bilund Khail. His Highness, in reply, acquiesced in the justice of the measures contemplated, and sent instructions to his officers to render every assistance to the troops. I may mention that it was only for the two days during which the force was encamped opposite Thull, that we were in the Cabul territories; for the hills which separate the Bilund Khail lands from the Koorum valley, and all the country south of that village, form the possessions of the independent Wuzeerees. As a time may come when it will suit the views of the Afghan Government to claim this tribe as its subjects, it may be well to record that, in his letter to me, the Ameer distinctly asserted that "the Wuzeerees were independent of both Governments," vide my letter to the Secretary to Government, No. 197 of 26th December 1859.

16.—When the force was at Gundiour in Meeranzye, (nine miles from Thull,) Captain Henderson received information that the notorious Zungee, the bandit leader of the gang to which the murderers had belonged, was still at his encampment on the left bank of the Koorum, (marked in the accompanying sketch,) with about a hundred followers. General Chamberlain awaited only the return of spies sent to verify this intelligence, to send a detachment across the low hills, and by the Chuppree table land to surprise the party, whilst cavalry proceeded down the

right bank of the river, to cut off their retreat in that direction. By an accident, the spies experienced difficulty in gaining Captain Henderson's tent, where they did not arrive till past midnight, when it was too late to undertake the enterprize. On our arrival at Thull, we ascertained that Zungee had left his camp in the morning, but his further movements could not be traced at the time.

17.—Meanwhile, the main body of the Kabyl Khail were in the Maidanee settlements, about ten miles to our front, and their watch-fires were nightly visible from camp, on the surrounding peaks. It was reported on all sides that they proposed making a stand, considering their position too strong for us to attack, and the fact of their not having sent off their families and property, appeared to verify this report; still, we daily expected to hear of their moving off, and were anxious to attack them before they changed their minds. They were variously estimated at from 2 to 3,000 men, and it was known that no other clan had yet joined them; some offers of arms and ammunition had been made, but proudly rejected, in their self-confidence.

18.—Before proceeding further, I must briefly describe the position and character of the Wuzeerees, in order to the clear understanding of our subsequent movements. In doing so I shall confine myself to the leading divisions of the tribe, but a detailed enumeration of their minor branches will be appended, for purposes of reference.

19.—The proper settlements of the Wuzeerees are amidst the higher spurs of the Soolimanee range, collectively styled the "black mountain," where they pass the summer months. In October, the greater portion of the tribe descends, with flocks and herds, to the lower hills bordering on the Kohat and Bunnoo districts ; some of the clans, who are located on the lower slopes of the Sooliman mountains, remain there throughout the year, or only partially remove. The lands thus temporarily vacated by the Wuzeerees, are occupied, during their absence, by Ghiljie immigrants from the west, a circumstance which renders the return of the Wuzeerees *en masse* before the spring, impracticable.

20.—The tribe is divided into three main branches, the Muhsoods, the Ahmudzye, and the Otmanzye. The winter settlements of the first are to the south-west of Bunnoo, towards Tonk. They are estimated at 15,000 men, but further allusion to them is not at present necessary.

21.—The Ahmudzyes are chiefly situated on the left bank of the Koorum, to the north of Bunnoo. Two of their clans, however, migrate into the Kohat district, for pasturage, viz., the Tazee Khail into the Khuttuk hills, and the Khojul Khail into the Meeranzye valley. The largest and most powerful sub-division of the Ahmudzye is the Hetti Khail, who are partly in the hills about Kaffir Kote, and partly permanent residents of the Bunnoo plain. It will be remembered that the murderers were chiefly men of this sub-division, who had joined

one commanding officer expressed a wish to enrol some of them in his ranks.

27.—On both banks of the Koorum there are broad tracts of rich soil, cultivated by the Wuzeerees at this season, and also on the banks of the Keytee, which rises in Khost, and falls into the Koorum near Zerwahm. The produce of these lands is a great source of wealth to them. Beyond these streams they have no cultivation, but the hills afford abundance of rich pasture for their flocks, and the ravines are mostly lined with excellent grazing for their numerous camels. The general character of the hills to the right of the Koorum is not so difficult as their jagged outline would indicate. There are but the rough walls, which support extensive tracts of table land, or conceal the grassy slopes within. The highest peak to which we ascended was under 5,000 feet above the level of the sea, and at this season there was not much snow upon them. On this (right) side of the Koorum, there are few places impracticable for horsemen.

28.—The great apparent want is water; springs are rarely met with, and these are not copious; at some of their encampments it has to be brought from a distance of several miles.

29.—The Wuzeerees have very few regular villages, and these are on the banks of the rivers, protected by walls of loose stones and towers. Within the hills they reside in "kizhdees," or encampments, constructed of stout black woollen blankets, spread over curved sticks, with

sides of coarse matting. These blankets are worth from 20 to 30 rupees, are exceedingly durable, impervious to rain, and not easily destroyed by fire. The cattle, sheep, and camels are all kept in the encampment, which is guarded by dogs of a large breed and of singular ferocity.

30.—The only permanent traces of the Wuzeerees are found in the grave-yards of their tribes, which are scattered over the hills at convenient spots. The tombs are of loose stones, put together with much care and neatness. These resting places of their dead appear to be the exclusive objects of veneration to the Wuzeerees, and in them are deposited their household stuff, when absent from their camps, the boldest thief not venturing to lay sacriligious hands upon it.

31.—Any respect they may have in excess of this, is bestowed on their Peer, or spiritual adviser,—Kazee Najcaboola of Bilund Khail, whose prayers and nostrums are sought for by the sick. In former days, he travelled much amongst them, receiving their free-will offerings; but having materially assisted the Ameer, Dost Mahomed, in bringing Khost under subjection, he has received a jageer of 1,000 rupees in that valley, which he finds more remunerative. On the present occasion he did good service for us, though I must do him the justice to say, that he was not unmindful of his wild disciples, when opportunity offered for doing them a good turn.

32.—Physically, the Wuzeerees are tall, muscular, and courageous. For a century they have lorded it over their neighbours, none of whom were safe from their

raids and encroachments, and their name was held in terror wherever it reached. Under such circumstances, it is not to be wondered at, that they have assumed an air of proud superiority. Their boast, alluded to in para. 11, was not unfounded, for no army had ever penetrated their country, or reduced any of their tribes to obedience. If in this proud spirit they now miscalculated the power and resources of their adversaries, they are not the first men who have similarly erred.

33.—Their conduct towards the British Government hitherto, had not been particularly hostile, and since the expedition of 1855, they have refrained from those acts of plunder in Meranzai, which had previously been so frequent. Such robberies as were committed by them, in British territories, were mostly the acts of two gangs, under the leadership of Zungee, and the sons of the late Munzur Khan. Their own predatory habits in other quarters, impelled them to connive at those acts, and thus to become responsible for them.

34.—On the 21st December, we received rumours that the Wuzeerees were planning to remove, as soon as we should break ground. That night it was agreed between General Chamberlain, Captain Henderson, and myself, that an attack should be made on the following morning, and preparations were made accordingly.

35.—At 5 A. M. the force was under arms, the cavalry and field pieces being ordered to follow at day-break. For the first five miles the road was good, passing amongst stony hillocks to Gundiob, an elevated plain,

with some springs in the neighbourhood. The camp was directed to be brought on to this place, and the column of attack proceeded towards Maidanee.

36.—From Gundiob the road became more confined, with abrupt hills on either side, and impracticable for field artillery, which, with the cavalry, remained at the new camp. As we approached Maidanee, parties of the enemy were observed on the hill tops, and General Chamberlain caused a column of infantry, with some mountain guns, to ascend to the right, and another to the left. Pursuing their route, the left column soon came upon the advanced parties of the enemy.

37.—The latter were not collected in a body, but scattered about the hills, firing from behind bushes and low breast-works. They were not so numerous as we had expected, and it afterwards appeared that the main body had moved off, on seeing us approach, with their families and cattle, leaving about 1,500 of their picked men to cover their retreat, by contesting the ground over the villages with the troops.

38.—This duty they performed with a gallantry and devotion which we could not but admire. Their horsemen, mounted on small but wiry mares, scrambled over rocks and declivities with wonderful facility, and a party of them rode unexpectedly down upon the skirmishers of the Guides, exposed to a heavy fire, killing one and wounding three. Of their own number three were slain, and some of their horses were captured.

39.—Another party of a dozen footmen, behind a low breast-work on the summit of a hill, endeavoured to keep their ground against a company of Rifles who were ascending it. Having exhausted their ammunition, they took to stones, which, in Wuzeeree hands, are formidable missiles, and, coming out in front, kept up an incessant discharge, wounding several of the sepoys. At last, finding that their foes were closing in upon them, several came down, sword in hand, to die: to seek for quarter, or to throw down their arms under such circumstances, was what these brave men would not consent to do.

40.—In this manner spur after spur was taken, until both columns arrived on the heights above the encampments, when the Wuzeerees gave up the contest, and dispersed over the higher range. The reserve advancing up the direct road, arrived at Maidanee, and the three large encampments were fired. Very little grain had been taken away, and consequently all their winter store fell into our hands, together with a large number of sheep and goats.

41.—Twenty of their bodies were left on the ground, and as far as can be judged from subsequent reports, their casualties amounted in all to about fifty. Our own loss was one man killed, and 14 wounded.

42.—Rain began to fall early in the afternoon. The troops withdrew after the destruction of the encampments, and arrived in camp at Gundiob about dusk.

43.—General Chamberlain then determined to return to Maidanee on the following day, as it was pro-

bable that the Wuzeerees might return, under the expectation that the force had left for good. Accordingly, on the 23rd, at 10 A. M., the camp was sent round by Bilund Khail to Shiva, with the cavalry and field artillery. The remainder of the force returned to Maidanee, with the intention of joining the camp at Shiva by the Zakha gorge.

44.—Between the Wuzeerees and the Toorees who occupy the Koorum valley, there has been a feud for many generations, and no opportunity is lost by either party of injuring the other. In 1856, when a force was sent to recover damages from the Toorees, for continued acts of plunder in British territories, a sum of about 1,500 rupees was claimed from them by the Wuzeerees, and as the latter had been stolen cis-Koorum, the cattle claim was admitted, and the money recovered. It was now the turn of the Toorees, and more willing hands could not have been found for the purpose. Well acquainted with all the Wuzeeree paths and ravines, they acted as guides to the force, and as spies, and as plunderers on their own account. Following the troops on donkeys and bullocks, they left not an article behind which could be turned to any use. They carried off immense stores of grain, and flocks of sheep from the hills around.

45.—But they are far inferior to the Wuzeerees in courage and all manly qualities. With coarse, sensual features, there is much of the savage about them. On scenting prey their eyes dilate, and they evince all the greed and ferocity of wild beasts. In their raids they are ruthless, and spare neither sex nor age. It was not

unpleasing to hear that these men sometimes suffered in their thirst for plunder. On one occasion, a party wandered off to an encampment, which they believed to be too near our camp to contain Wuzeerees, but they were disappointed. Some of them were killed, and the rest only escaped by the abject submission of placing grass in their mouths, signifying that they were the beasts of burden of the Wuzeerees.

46.—When the troops arrived on the high ridge above Maidanee, the water-shed of which forms the boundary between the Kabyl Khail and Hussun Khail, Captain Henderson received intelligence that the fugitives were passing through the lands of the latter tribe, with the bulk of their flocks, and that Zungee himself had passed the night in one of their villages. The Hussun Khail not having joined in the affair of the previous day, it was not desirable to punish them, if they still held aloof. Warning was therefore sent to this effect, with a requisition to them to give up the property of the fugitives with them.

47.—Captain Henderson, with the mounted levies, descended to the Hussun Khail encampments, and found that the fugitives had left some time previously. The Hussun Khail gave up such property as was with them, and pointed out the track of the Kabyl Khail. The troops also descending the hills in support, enabled Captain Henderson, with his sowars, to continue the pursuit,

and to capture 5,000 sheep, 300 bullocks, and 60 camels, besides the property carried off by Toorees and others.

48.—He rejoined the troops at Darmani about dusk, and as we were now 18 miles from the camp at Shiva, General Chamberlain ordered a bivouac in the dry nullah at that place. Sheep were served out to the men, fires were lighted, and the night passed in feasting. The Hussun Khail were required to post pickets on the hills around, and not a shot was fired during the night: it was a strange duty for the Wuzeerees to find themselves called on to perform, and their readiness to comply with all our requisitions, indicated how powerless they felt themselves. At day-break we commenced the march to camp, striking the Keytee about midway, and arriving at Shiva at 2 P. M. The rain, which had so fortunately held off during the night, fell throughout the march.

49.—Captain Johnstone, the Surveyor of the Derajat, joined the force at Thull, and, together with Captain Pollard and Lieutenant Holmes of the Engineers, was afterwards actively engaged in mapping the country, an object which was considered by General Chamberlain and myself of primary importance. I may notice that, from the date of our leaving Kohat to the breaking up of the force, there was no blank day. When the troops were not actually employed, parties were out with the Engineer officers, surveying and exploring the routes. The Brigadier General admitted of no halting, beyond the time actually required for our communications with the tribes, and was constant in impressing upon me the

value of each day. The result is, that Captain Johnstone will be enabled to lay before the Government an accurate survey of the Wuzeeree hills, hitherto unknown to our officers, and I am sure that his zealous exertions, and those of Captain Pollard and Lieutenant Holmes, will commend themselves to His Honor's favorable notice.

50.—I must here report, that I took upon myself to authorize the distribution of all the captured sheep and cattle amongst the troops and levies. Had I sold them for the benefit of Government, the sum realized would not have been a quarter of their value, and much property would have found its way back to its original possessors, being bought up cheaply by their friends for the purpose. It was necessary, too, to reward the levies and spies, and perhaps this was the cheapest and best mode of doing so. Our Christmas, upon the Koorum, was thus a day of unusual feasting, and the rapidity with which thousands of sheep disappeared may not have had an unwholesome effect on the Wuzeeree mind, rendering the prospect of a return of such insatiable guests anything but pleasing.

51.—On the 26th, representatives came to Captain Henderson from the chief Otmanzai tribes, viz., the Kabyl Khail, Tooree Khail, and Hussun Khail. With the former we determined to hold no communication at present, but the latter were informed that, if the Otmanzai would unite and deliver up Zungee, or two of the murderers, we would be satisfied. To this they agreed, and the Tooree Khail and Hussun Khail left hostages with us,

in token of their earnestness. It was evident from their manner that they were alarmed for their own flocks and homes, which were quite at our mercy.

52.—That evening their plans were arranged, and they set out for the distant hills, where Zungee was said to be concealed. On the following day we had a further earnest of their intentions, for the Hussun Khail sent in to our camp one Goolan, a notorious robber, against whom we had several claims, and who was believed to have been of the party who had murdered a Lohanee merchant, two years ago, in the Bunnoo district. This man was sent into Kohat, to stand his trial upon the above charges.

53.—On the same evening, Captain Henderson was informed that some of the Kabyl Khail were still in hiding, amongst the hills which shut in the Sheenalora plain, (vide sketch). Accordingly, long before day-break on the 28th, a detachment under Major Rothney set forth to attack them, guided by Captain Henderson. The refugees could not have selected a more favorable hiding place, as the precipitous nature of the crags and ravines rendered it a most difficult task to approach them. Flight, under such circumstances, was easy for the majority, but some preferred to imitate the conduct of their clansmen at Maidanee, and becoming engaged with a couple of companies of the 3rd Punjab infantry under Lieutenant Pitcher, six of their number were slain. Our loss was only one wounded ; and the detachment returned to camp, with a spoil of 300 sheep.

54.—On the 29th, a portion of the force, accompanied by the Brigadier General, Captain Henderson, and myself, advanced to Speerwahm on the Keytee, with the double view of pressing on our unwilling allies of the Otmanzai, and also of exploring the settlements of the Hussun Khail, whom it might be necessary to punish in case of laxity.

55.—The 30th was devoted to a visit to the Darweshtah hill, considered by the Wuzeerees as one of their most unassailable strong-holds. Its two peaks form a striking object from Bunnoo and from all parts of the country we had traversed, backed by the snowy summits of the Kanagoram. In ascending it, we passed the sites of several encampments, snugly located among the spurs of the great massive hill, and could readily imagine the difficulty of the work, if the peaks were held by such men as our brave, though now humbled foes.

56.—From the top, the Engineers obtained a most satisfactory view of all the distant ranges, and of the valleys of Khost and Daur, whilst the plain and fort of Bunnoo were distinctly visible over the lower hills. The height of Darweshtah was found to be about 4,500 feet. From this point, the hills running to the west merge into one great range, separating Khost from Daur, and leading to the Soolimanee mountains.

57.—Both the above-named valleys are dependencies of Kabul, and with their flourishing villages, extensive cultivation, and groves of plane, sheeshum, and mulberry, present a striking contrast to the dry and rug-

ged hills on which they are embedded. Khost is watered throughout by the Keytee, and Daur by the Tochee, the former joins the Koorum near Zerwahm, and the latter, flowing through Bunnoo and Murwat, meets the same stream shortly before its junction with the Indus.

58.—Khost has only of late years been brought into regular subjection, mainly through the instrumentality of Kazee Najcaboola, alluded to in para: 31. It contains 12,000 inhabitants, and pays an annual revenue of rupees 50,000. Daur is perhaps more populous, and might pay a larger sum, but it is too remote, and hedged in by too many independent tribes to render it accessible to Dooranee officials: its inhabitants therefore live in happy exemption from all taxes.

59.—But that the Afghan Government only awaits its opportunity, may be gathered from the following characteristic incident. When I was at Speerwahm, a messenger arrived from the governor of Khost, with a congratulatory letter from his master. "Why not" wrote this functionary, "follow up these throat-cutting dogs even to the hills of Daur; and now I think of it, the illustrious Sirdar, Mohumud Azim Khan, (the Ameer's son) has for three years been contemplating the collection of his Daur revenue, from which he was diverted by these unfortunate wars in Toorkistan. By advancing, you will secure the men you are in search of, and I accompanying you, in a friendly way, will secure three years revenue for my master."

60.—From the evidence taken by Captain Coxe and Lieutenant Munro at Bunnoo, immediately after the murder of Captain Mecham, it appeared that the murderers had, on their way back, been hospitably entertained by Umber Shah of the Gungee Khail, at whose house they had been seen displaying the unfortunate gentleman's property. It will be seen from the sketch, that our camp at Speerwahm was in the neighbourhood of the Gungee Khail. The headmen were summoned accordingly, and arrived on the 31st, in a great state of alarm, and were called on to give up Umber Shah, or to take the consequences.

61.—Leaving hostages, they returned with a promise that they would do so, and on the following day they kept their word. Umber Shah was brought in a prisoner, to stand his trial; this was a great triumph over Wuzeeree prejudice, and gave promise of success in regard to the murderers. Having complied with our demand, the Gungee Khail were only further required to give a formal agreement that they would henceforth give no passage through their settlement to robbers, and were then dismissed.

62.—The new year found us still at Speerwahm, for we were anxious to ascertain the real views of the Otmanzai before we left; but the day was occupied by the Engineer officers in another long excursion over the Shera Tullah plain, (the head-quarters of the Tooree Khail) close up to the confines of Daur.

63.—In the afternoon, a group of 28 captives, male and female, was brought into camp by a party of the Otmanzie gathering, with a piteous story of Zungee's escape. He had been surrounded, they said, but fighting desperately, had got away; and "here," said one, holding up a blue rag, "is Zungee's turband." But neither the captives, (some of whom were related to Zungee) nor the blue rag sufficed. Still it was one step gained, and it was probable that, when they saw we were in earnest, and that nothing but the veritable Zungee would content us, they would make a more successful effort. We therefore sent the captives to Kohat, and retaining the hostages, merely said that the account was not closed, and on the morning of the 2nd January, the detachment returned to the Koorum, and encamped at Kirari.

64.—From the time of my arrival at Thull, I had maintained a constant communication with Major Taylor at Bunnoo, by cossids, who followed the Koorum route; at my request, that officer, taking advantage of the present state of the Wuzeerees, rode from Bunnoo up the bed of the Koorum, with a mounted escort, and we had the pleasure of receiving him in the evening in camp at Kirari.

65.—The murderers had now left the Otmanzai, and taken refuge with the Zullee Khail, a tribe of the Ahmudzai, who do not migrate from the lower slopes of the Soliman range. It was therefore agreed upon between Major Taylor and myself, that whilst on our side we continued the pressure upon the Otmanzai, till Zungee should be delivered up, he would adopt the same course towards

the Ahmudzai, with a view to effect the capture of the murderers.

66.—For this purpose, it was necessary that we should visit Chuppree, in the heart of the Ahmudzai country, and in the neighbourhood of Kaffir Kote, which it was also an object to explore. But Captain Henderson and Captain Cooper, Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General, having gone out to examine the road into the Zungurrah ravine, reported that there was a narrow gorge at Karunga, through which laden camels could not pass. To the Wuzeerees themselves this has always been a great obstacle, for it is on their high road from the Buhadoor Khail salt mines, and every camel passing through it had to be unladen. It is also the road taken by parties coming up the Koorum from Bunnoo, to avoid the narrow place called "Tungee," (vide sketch) where the river passes through the Kundai range, and is deep and rapid, with large pieces of rock and awkward holes in its bed.

67.—General Chamberlain there halted on the 3rd., whilst Captain Pollard and Lieutenant Holmes, with the Sappers, and Lieutenant Chalmers with a company of the 24th Muzbee regiment, proceeded to the gorge, for the purpose of rendering it practicable by blasting. They were enabled to report the work complete by night-fall, having made a road, over which not only laden camels but field guns might pass with facility. We have thus left a permanent mark in their wild hills, which should give rise to no angry imprecations, for, in making this

passage, we have performed for them an invaluable service, which they could never have performed for themselves. It is to be hoped that the Wuzeerees will evince a greater spirit of appreciation than did the Afreedees of the Khyber, who, in hatred and disdain, have denominated a pass made by our troops, under somewhat similar circumstances, "Kaffir Tungee," or "the infidel's gorge."

68.—On the 4th, a detachment proceeded across the Koorum, and after passing the Kundai range by a steep road, known as "the camel's neck," descended to Karunga, so called from the thickness of the ice in the numerous pools about it. Entering the Zungurrah ravine, which is the high road for the salt traffic, we continued up its bed for 16 miles. Anything more dreary could scarcely be conceived; the hills rising abruptly on either side, to a height of a hundred feet, shut out all beyond, and as we approached its head, they closed in so much, and the bends were so numerous, to convey the impression of subterranean galleries. It was a great relief to emerge on the thorn-clad plain of Chuppree. At one or two places, we had found it practicable to scramble up the ravine, and saw on either side occasional plateaus on which the Wuzeerees encamp.

69.—The entire country east of the Koorum, is much more difficult than that on the west; the hills are more massed together, huge cliffs meet the eye in every direction, and the inaccessible peaks of the higher mountains, assume the appearance of gigantic castles. This

similitude strikingly applies to the Kaffir Kote and Joonee mountains, which rise high above the neighbouring hills, grimly, pre-eminent. The nomenclature of the latter is derived from a Pushtoo word signifying "the virgins," and tradition has it that, "once upon a time," two Wuzeeree maidens were about to become the captives of an invader, when they prayed to be turned into rocks, which process was accordingly effected. "It must be true," said my Wuzeeree informant, "because there they are to this day."

70.—On the 5th, whilst the chiefs of tribes were assembling, we explored the country up to Kaffir Kote, in hopes of being able to ascend it. But though disappointed in this respect, we looked on a scene of such singular effect, as in other localities would have attracted the attention of tourists. Slips from what was apparently one great mass of conglomerate, had fallen irregularly from its sides, forming buttresses which tapered up from the base, leaving above them perpendicular walls from 4 to 500 feet high, presenting no means of ascent throughout their contour of several miles. One of the detached peaks can be, and was ascended by some of the more adventurous of the party. It had been supposed that Kaffir Kote derived its name from one of those ancient ruins which are so frequently met with in the hills upon this border, but it was evidently the form of the mountain itself, which, like every thing gigantic and unintelligible in these countries, has been ascribed to the agency of infidels of a former time.

71.—On the 6th, we rode over the Oomurzai hills,—the tribe attacked six years ago, under the guidance of the late General Nicholson. Our guides pointed out where every man was killed on that occasion, and shewed that wherever that lamented officer had been, as well in these Wuzeeree wilds as on the plains of the Punjab, or the banks of the Jumna, his name is "familiar as a household word."

72.—In the afternoon, the Ahmudzai chiefs were assembled, and having heard from Major Taylor the object of our visit, after some excuses and feigned inability, admitted themselves to be responsible for the capture of the murderers, and finally agreed to produce three of them, in a month and a half, giving hostages to be retained, in the mean time, at Bunnoo. Working thus upon the clans to undertake this work, was another great step gained, and will, in any case, have a wholesome effect. Several claims were now adduced by Captain Henderson, against men of Ahmudzai tribes, which were all satisfactorily disposed of. Nor must I forget that here, too, we had an opportunity of conferring a benefit on the Wuzeerees, by digging a very good well for them.

73.—On the 7th January, the 3rd and 6th regiments Punjab infantry, which were destined for Bunnoo and Dera Ghazee Khan, left us with Major Taylor, by the Barghanuttoo road, for Bunnoo, distant about 18 miles. Captain Johnstone accompanied them, to complete his survey of the passes leading into the plain. The rest of the detachment returned to Karunga, where we passed the night.

74.—Instructions were sent by General Chamberlain to Colonel Lumsden, commanding the detachment near Shiva, and to Major Lambert, commanding that at Kirari, to march on Thull in the morning; and proceeding to the same place himself, by the left bank of the Koorum, the force was again united on the 8th, in British territory.

75.—On the following day, the troops marched to Gundiour, where I dismissed the levies, and distributed rewards to those who had performed good service. At this place I left the Brigadier General, and returned to Kohat, where the force arrived on the 14th January, and was broken up on that date.

76.—In estimating the results of the expedition, more must be considered than the actual and apparent loss inflicted on the enemy. But even that has been very considerable. From 20 to 30 of their best and bravest have been slain, men who swayed their councils and led their bands to war; this loss cannot be repaired for years. Their pastoral wealth is gone, together with their stores of grain laid up for the winter: the amount of such losses to them, is incalculable, but in actual value it cannot be under rupees 25,000. The Kabyl Khail have lost also their pre-eminence in the tribe, whilst the prestige of all is gone, and their proud self-confidence is succeeded by a feeling of insecurity, increased by the knowledge that some of their numbers have already been given up to justice, and that a sufficient amount of pressure only is required for others to be given up likewise.

77.—Divisions also must follow, where all were before united; our troops have been through the length and breadth of the land, and under Wuzeeree guidance, their ravines and strong-holds have been all explored and surveyed. I would add that the punishment has been inflicted with that promptitude, which, in the eyes of such people, is indicative of real power. The murderers had scarcely time to wash the blood-stains from their blades, when their country was overrun, their homes destroyed, and their clansmen flying for their lives. I have shewn above how careful this tribe has been to render the taking of Wuzeeree life an expensive frolic: they have now learnt how disastrous, to them, is the spilling of British blood.

78.—If, however, we were merely contemplating an act of just vengeance, the picture of much misery amongst a people possessing many noble qualities, would not be one to dwell upon, nor would a conquest over tribes so inferior to ourselves in power and resource, afford much ground for gratulation; but when we look to the past, and see how peace and security have followed in the steps of such enterprizes, and how gradually, but surely, our rude neighbours are falling under our influence for good, we must look beyond the present scenes, hopefully to the future.

79.—Notwithstanding the heavy punishment which, I believe, to have been inflicted in this case, I still hope that the Government will permit me to consider the work unaccomplished, until the criminals are given up. I am aware that, hitherto, we have wisely been content with

such results as have been already attained; but I think the time has come for us to take a step in advance, and to insist on the rendition of heinous offenders, so long as they continue to dwell with the tribe. If then Zungee is not given up in the interim, I would propose again going to the Koorum and carrying off the crops in April. With our present knowledge of the country, and having further objects in view, the force required would not be large, as we should not enter the hills, and its advance from Kohat would, in all probability, suffice to ensure his being given up.

80.—With regard to the other criminals, Major Taylor has a more difficult task, and I feel some hesitation in offering an opinion, lest in so doing I may, in ignorance, under-estimate the difficulties which the Bunnoo authorities might consider to be involved in the measure. I would simply urge that the pressure on the Ahmudzai be not too lightly withdrawn, and I feel assured that the experiment will meet with a full trial in Major Taylor's hands.

81.—Here I was about to close this report, when I received an express from Major Taylor, informing me that Mohubbut, the principal murderer of Captain Mecham, had been delivered up to him by the Ahmudzai clans, in accordance with their agreement. The evidence taken at the time proved this, and he has made a full confession, asserting that he counselled the attack, led the party, and struck the first and final blows. Thus, the great object has been accomplished, of forcing the proudest tribe

on the border to give up a criminal who had trusted to the security impartedby Puthan usage, which hitherto has withstood all our efforts to break through. With Goolan, Umber Shah, and Mohubbut in our jail, the line of policy which I have indicated above, (para. 79) will not be deemed chimerical; and when the murderer expiates his crime on the gallows, at the scene of its perpetration, the neighbouring tribes may mourn over the violation of the code of their fathers, but in future, will pause ere they violate ours.

82.—It is now my pleasing duty to bring prominently to the notice of Government, the valuable services rendered on this, as on all similar occasions, by Captain Henderson. His Honor is aware that this officer arrived in Calcutta from Europe in November, hastening to Kohat, he entered upon the work with his wonted energy, and to his zeal, judgment, and local knowledge, a large share of the success which has attended the expedition, must be attributed. Owing to his exertions also, the troops wanted for nothing, during the month they were absent, the labor which this involved may best be judged, from the fact of all supplies being necessarily drawn from a distance of from 50 to 80 miles.

83.—Khwajah Mahomud Khan and Bahadoor Shere Khan, at the head of the Khuttuk and Bungush levies, have merited the approbation of Government; as have Mozuffer Khan and Mahomud Ameen Khan of Hungoo. I beg also to notice Syud Ayaooddeen, Futteh Khan, (Khuttuk); Surfaraz Khan, and Mohubbut Khan, who accompanied me from Peshawur.

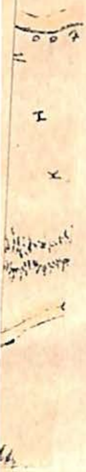
84.—For the sketch, which accompanies and illustrates this despatch, I am indebted to Lieutenant Holmes of the Engineers. It does not claim to be strictly accurate, but it conveys an excellent impression of the country traversed by the force, and I am sure that His Honor will recognize its merits.

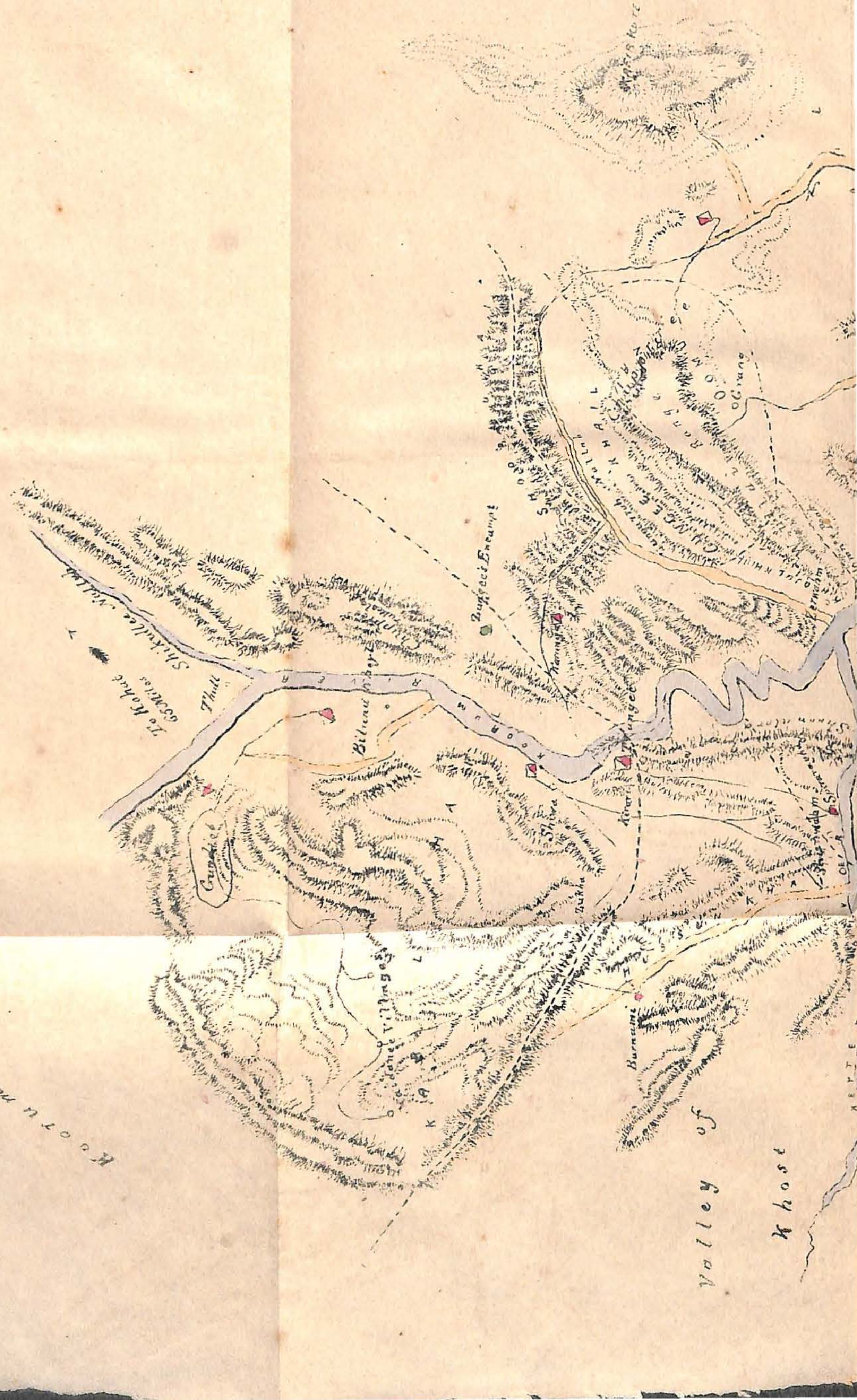
85.—In conclusion, I would express the deep obligation I am under to Brigadier General Chamberlain, for the kind manner in which he assisted me on all occasions, with his judgment and advice."

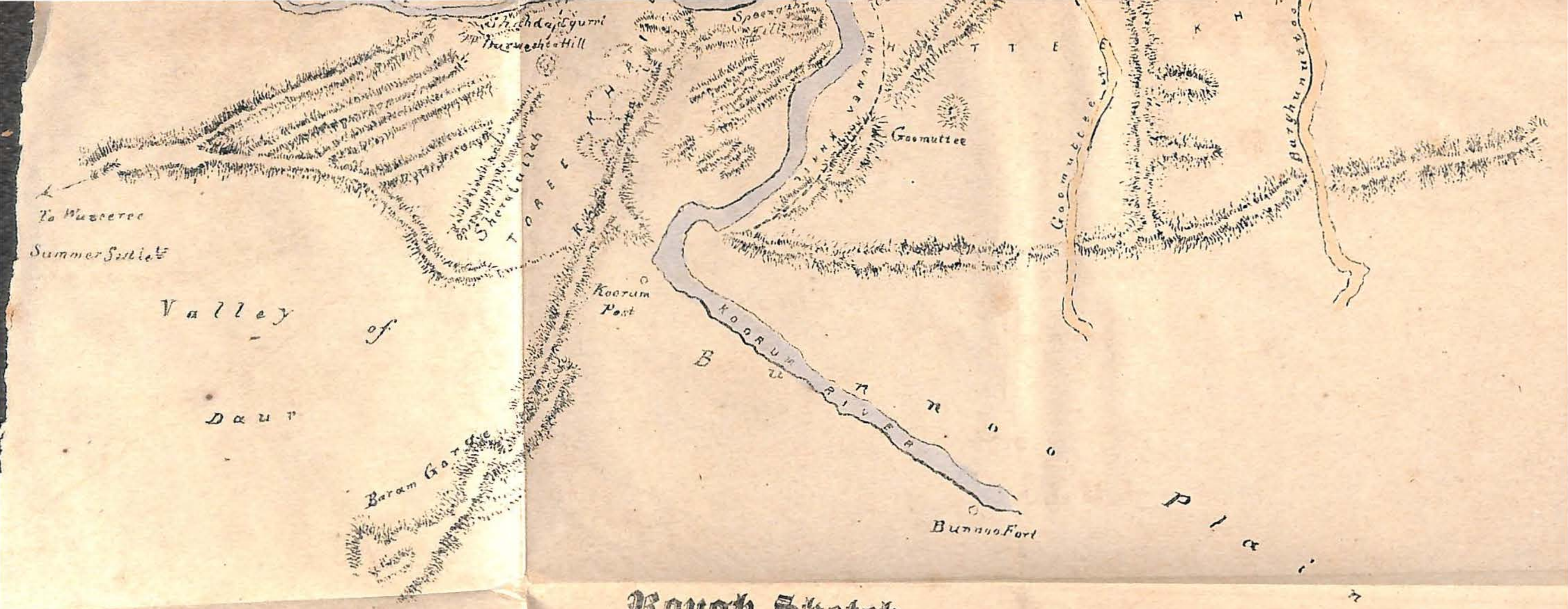
APPENDIX.

DETAILED enumeration of the Wuzeeree clans, shewing the strength of tribes.

Main branch.	Clans.	Sub-divisions.	Number of Men.	Total.	Winter residence.
AHMEDZAI.	Tazee Khail ...	... ...	1,500		Khuttuk hills in the Kohat district.
	Khopil Khail, ...	... ...	1,500		Upper Meranzai, Ditto, Ditto,
	Zullee Khail, ...	... ...	1,400		Do not migrate from the Soliman range.
	Gungee Khail, ...	... ...	700		Scattered, but chiefly between Zungurrah ravine and the [Wullai range.
	Paida Khail, ...		500		Towards Bunnoo.
	Sukee Khail, ...	... ...	500		Do. do.
	Hetti Khail, ...	... ...	1,600		Do. do. and permanent residents of the Bunnoo district.
	Shoodinkai, ...	... ...	300		North of Zungurrah ravine.
	Speerkai, ...	... ...	1,500		Towards Bunnoo.
	Khwunea Khail, ...	... ...	300		On the Koorum below Zerwahm.
	Bizund Khail, ...	... ...	600		Towards Bunnoo.
	Omerzai, ...	... ...	600		Chuppree, in the Barghunuttoo.




To Kohat
63 Miles
Thull
River
Koorum Valley
Valley of Khost



Rough Sketch

OF THE WUZEEREE COUNTRY.

TRAVERSED BY THE KOORUM FIELD FORCE

IN 1859-60.

The dotted lines shew boundaries of clans, and the thin ink lines represent the route taken by the force.

(Signed) WILLIAM B. HOLMES,
Lieutenant, Engineers.

PY of a letter from the Secretary to the Government of ndia, to the Secretary to the Government Punjab, dated 0th February, 1860.

"I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of ur letter No. 77, dated the 3rd instant, forwarding the port of the Commissioner of Peshawur, of the operaons and results of the expedition into the trans-Koorum rritory, undertaken with the object of punishing the abyl Kheyl branch of the Otmanzai Wuzeerees, for reusing to render any satisfaction for the murder of Captain Mecham.

2.—In reply, I am directed by the Governor General to request that the Honorable the Lieutenant Governor will be so good as to convey to Captain James and to Captain Henderson, as also to the Chiefs* named in Captain James' report, His Excellency's best thanks for the promptitude and success with which this important service has been rendered.

*Khwajah Mahomed Khan.
Bahadoor Shere Khan.
Mozuffer Khan.
Mahomed Ameen Khan.
Syud Ayaooddeen Khan.
Futteh Khan, Khuttuck.
Surfaraz Khan.
Mohubbut Khan.

3.—The plan and conduct of the whole expedition reflect the highest credit upon the officers of the frontier, and inspire complete confidence in their judgment as well as energy.

4.—His Excellency approves of Captain James' proposal to renew the pressure in April next, in order to compel the surrender of the remaining criminals.

COPY of a letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, to the Secretary to the Government Punjab, dated 10th February, 1860.

"I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 77, dated the 3rd instant, forwarding the report of the Commissioner of Peshawur, of the operations and results of the expedition into the trans-Koorum territory, undertaken with the object of punishing the Kabyl Kheyl branch of the Otmanzai Wuzeerees, for refusing to render any satisfaction for the murder of Captain Mecham.

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